

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000042

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ELAB](#) [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [PHUM](#) [KFRD](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [TU](#) [TIP](#) [IN](#) [TURKEY](#)

SUBJECT: 1/6/04 TIP REPORT

REF: ANKARA 5159

1. (U) The following are recent developments related to trafficking in persons (TIP) in Turkey:

IOM Pilot Program

2. (U) The Ankara office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has drafted a proposal for a USD 1.2 million pilot project on TIP that includes training, shelters, and voluntary repatriation (text faxed to EUR/SE Yountchi). The goal of the one-year project is to raise awareness of TIP among law enforcement officials and provide assistance to 300 TIP victims. In addition, it is expected that during the course of the program the GOT will establish a mechanism for referring TIP victims to service providers and create a voluntary return program in line with practices in EU countries. The Human Resources Development Foundation (HRDF), an Istanbul-based NGO, would serve as IOM's partner in the project (HRDF and the GOT signed a protocol on TIP in September; IOM recommended HRDF for the agreement.) IOM Ankara delivered the proposal to the GOT January 6 and IOM headquarters in Geneva will approach potential donor nations.

Training for Jandarma, Judiciary

3. (U) According to Regina Boucault, IOM Ankara chief of mission, IOM has been providing a TIP component to UNHCR-sponsored Jandarma training. During the September, October, and December UNHCR training programs, IOM taught an introductory TIP law enforcement course. Boucault told us Col. Cengiz Yildirim, head of the Jandarma Smuggling and Organized Crimes Department, was impressed by the TIP course and asked IOM to prepare a more in-depth TIP program for the Jandarma. IOM in November submitted to Yildirim an outline for a proposed three-day TIP program (text faxed to EUR/SE Yountchi). Once the program is finalized, IOM will seek funding. Boucault said the Turkish National Police have also contacted HRDF about new TIP training programs.

4. (U) HRDF has organized four two-day TIP workshops for judges and prosecutors. The workshops, to be held in January and February, are funded by the British Council. IOM will participate in the programs.

TIP Study

5. (U) IOM in November released a study entitled, "Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Women: The Case of Turkey." The report, available on the internet at www.iom.int, does not provide an estimate of the size and scope of TIP in Turkey. It does, however, provide general information about the problem in Turkey and the GOT's efforts to combat it. Conclusions from the study include:

-- The GOT has taken "remarkable steps" to combat TIP over the past two years, but lacks a consistent, comprehensive approach. It is important for the GOT to implement recent TIP-related legal reforms.

-- Various sources indicate that Turkey is one of the major destination countries for women trafficked from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. Nearly 90 percent of the citizens of these countries who are deported from Turkey are deported for reasons related to the illegal

sex business or sexually transmitted diseases.

-- Only 13 percent of foreigners with residence permits in Turkey hold work permits. This situation helps enable traffickers to exploit foreign women who want to work but cannot do so legally. In February 2003, the Turkish Parliament passed a law making it easier for foreigners to obtain work permits. Under one article of the law, foreigners may be employed as domestic servants.

-- Until recently, Turkey had long been a country of emigration, with liberal border control policies geared toward attracting tourists and enhancing foreign currency reserves. The collapse of the Soviet Union, among other factors, suddenly turned Turkey into a magnet for irregular migrants. This change caught the GOT unprepared and overwhelmed. Turkey's liberal border policies led to a mass influx of irregular migrants from ex-socialist states. GOT officials are now in the process of adjusting Turkey's policies to fit this new reality. While doing so, they have focused primarily on the need to control illegal borders crossings, treating TIP as a secondary concern.

Moldovan Case

16. (U) IOM and HRDF recently worked on a case that illustrates some of the difficulties in combating TIP in Turkey. According to police and IOM reports, a 28-year-old Moldovan woman who overstayed her tourist visa in Turkey called her mother in Moldova from Antalya, on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, on November 30. She informed her mother that she had been detained on an immigration violation. She said she had been kidnapped and forced into prostitution. Her mother called the Moldova branch of the NGO Save the Children seeking help. Save the Children contacted HRDF, thanks to a regional network of NGOs established by HRDF in accordance with a TIP protocol signed by the GOT and HRDF in September. HRDF then alerted Antalya police that the woman was a potential trafficking victim. However, the woman, who was released from detention, told police only that she had been living voluntarily with a Turkish man who took her to Antalya and abandoned her. IOM later sent police a questionnaire for the woman to fill out in an effort to clarify her status. In the meantime, her mother sent her money and she returned to Moldova. The woman never filled out the questionnaire and it is not clear whether she was a TIP victim.

Prosecutions

17. (U) To date, there have been a total of 11 cases opened against alleged traffickers under the anti-TIP legislation adopted in August 2002. The cases involve a total of 41 alleged traffickers and 27 alleged victims. Courts have ruled for acquittal in three cases; the remainder are ongoing.

DEUTSCH